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Highlights of GERMANY with a day tour into the CZECH REPUBLIC

Frankfurt in/ out - 12 days

- A leisure package tour -

Your day by day itinerary

DAY 01: Arriving **FRANKFURT** Airport – Orientation Tour -
transfer to your hotel.

A warm welcome awaits all group members upon arrival Frankfurt Airport by your Tour Director following a brief orientation tour of the city. - Experience the city's financial district and "Roemer", the old part of Frankfurt which displays a complex of remarkable buildings with its beginnings of the 14th up to the 18th C. - Of further interest the City Hall, the Gothic church St. Leonard and the Museum of History. - Time at leisure before your motor coach takes you to your first-class hotel in Frankfurt for the first 2 nights. - Upon arrival hotel join your Tour Director for a welcome reception and for a special welcome dinner this evening. (D)





DAY 02: Excursion to RUEDESHEIM including a RHINE RIVER CRUISE and to KOBLENZ to see its Fortress Ehrenbreitstein.

Your first excursion leads you today to quaint town of Ruedesheim on the Rhine river and to its picturesque alley Drosselgasse lined with a number of inviting wine bars. – Ample time is yours before a pleasant Rhine River Cruise will take you downstream past castles crowning hills, vineyards, medieval towns and the legendary Loreley Rock where mermaids are said to have lured sailors to their death – You disembark at St. Goarshausen and continue by motor coach to nearby Koblenz at the confluence of the rivers Rhine and Mosel where early Romans have established an encampment in the 9th C. - Above the right bank of the Rhine dominates the old fortress Ehrenbreitstein, rebuilt 1828 by the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III as an anti-France line of defense against Napoleon. After the 2nd World War this stronghold almost fell victim to the disarmament clauses in the Treaty of Versailles. Thanks to the intervention of locals and the American General Henry T. Allen, this fortress was spared due to its cultural, historical and architectural significance.- From "Deutsches Eck" (German Corner) where the Teutonic knights established their first base in 1216, we take a cable car ride over the Rhine river up to this fortress with spectacular views of its landscape and castles. - Arriving at the ground of this huge monument enjoy also from here now its surrounding and exceptional panorama which has inspired both poets and painters. - Some later, we return to our hotel in Frankfurt in time for dinner and overnight. (B & D)





DAY 03: Transfer to SCHWEINFURT.

We leave Frankfurt during the morning following our route north-east by way of its Nature Park Spessart, one of the largest forested areas in Germany. - For our lunch break we stop at the medieval town of Wertheim, founded between the 7th and 8th C and beautiful situated on the delta of the river Tauber flowing into the river Main. -You will enjoy viewing its dominating landmark Castle Wertheim and are scheduled to visit abbey Bronnbach. Founded in 1150 and consecrated in the 13th C, this Basilica was built in Romanesque and early Gothic style and became one of the most important churches of religious order in the southern part of Germany. - Then, we travel further north and soon arrive at the city of Schweinfurt to stay on for the next 9 nights, your starting point for the upcoming wonderful day excursions. – Before we check-in, an orientation drive will show you its landmark Cathedral, a former abbey flanked by two impressive towers. The white interior will show you its remarkable High Altar, the burial place of Saint Boniface and founder of the city. This church combines elements of St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome, a magnificent decoration and shows the influence of Roman Baroque. - Then, check-in at your first-class hotel and spend the rest of the afternoon at your disposal. - Toward evening we meet for a welcome reception and for a special dinner at the hotel restaurant. (B & D)





DAY 04: A morning excursion to one of Germany's famous spa resorts - afternoon free ...

Following a good breakfast this morning, a short drive takes you to Bad Kissingen ("*Bad*" stays in the German language for "*Spa*"), one of Germany's famous health resorts which already was established in the 16th C. - During the 19th C crowned heads of state like Empress Elisabeth of Austria, the Russian Czar Alexander and King Ludwig II of Bavaria were among the royal guests. - While in the pedestrian zone you will find different drinking fountains, running all day providing different healing effects. - Main feature of this health resort is the "Kurhaus", the original spa rooms surrounded by gardens of natural beauty where visitors from all over Germany and abroad come to relax and of course drinking healthy water, or enjoy the Mediterranean like Kneipp water-treading basin. - During summer time there will be an outside orchestra filling the gardens with pleasant music. - As a refreshing highlight and during the later morning you are scheduled on a river cruise taking you on a smaller ship called "Dampferle" leaving from the "Rose Garden" along the Saale river and where you enjoy a tasty lunch en route. - Some later after lunch time return to your hotel or stay on in the city center to do as you please. - Dinner this evening will be served again at your hotel. (B & L & D)





DAY 05: Excursion to EISENACH & WEIMAR.

Today's excursion will take you on Germany's classic route with your first stop in Eisenach to discover the traces of Martin Luther. See the places where he worked and lived and find yourself taken back to the 16th C. Remains of secular buildings can still be seen of this period, a center of medieval minnesingers and the refuge to the protestant church reformer Martin Luther. - You will see St. Nicholas Church, the Gate and the ruins of the city walls which all date back to the Romanesque time. - Then, your way leads to Wartburg Castle listed as an UNESCO site of World Cultural Heritage. Beside Luther, this castle is inextricably associated with the legendary minstrel's singing contest and music of Richard Wagner. Romanticism, Renaissance and historicism are the terms which characterize the castle's outward aspect and define its artistic treasures. - Following a leisurely break, your journey will take you some miles further east to Weimar, also called the "European City of Culture". The town has seen famous persons such as Goethe and Schiller, Lucas Cranach, Johann S. Bach, Liszt and Walter Gropius, the founder of the "Bauhaus" movement. - An orientation drive will show you numerous memorials which bear witness today to Weimar's famous past. - On request, a short side trip will lead you to Buchenwald, a former Nazi concentration camp. Established in 1937 and one of the first and largest of its kind where over 50.000 people were killed. In April 1945, it was the first Nazi camp liberated by one of the US Infantry Division. Today, the remains of Buchenwald serve as a memorial with a permanent exhibition and museum. - We then leave this former place of holocaust and travel back to our hotel in Schweinfurt. (B & D)





DAY 06: Excursion to **CHEB** in the **CZECH Republic**
including a church service.

Leaving Schweinfurt this morning for the ancient town of Cheb in the Czech Republic, near the German border. - Situated on the river Ohre and at the foot of the spurs of the German mountain range Fichtel, the first settlement in this area was a Slavic stronghold of the 9th C. - You will see its colorful restored city center and its Town Hall at the main square where the military leader and politician Albrecht von Wallenstein was murdered in 1634 during the Thirty Years War. - Close to its square the 13th C remarkable Church of St. Nicolaus as a three-naved basilica. After a fire of 1742 one of the towers was rebuilt with a Baroque cupola. The top of each twin steeple were hardly destroyed during WW II and restored in summer 2008. - Just a short drive out of town, we shall visit a most popular pilgrimage church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, erected in 1664 and restored in its original beauty. Be invited now at this unique place of worship for a private church service. - Following an exchange of ideas with its local father, we shall return to Germany and to our hotel. (B & D)





DAY 07: Excursion to QUEDLINBURG and to its Harz Mountains.

Another selected excursion takes you today to the UNESCO World Heritage town of Quedlinburg, beautiful situated in the Harz mountains and former capital of the East Franconian German Empire. For many centuries it has been a prosperous trading town and owns a number of high quality and well-preserved timber-framed buildings that make Quedlinburg an exceptional example of a German medieval town. - You will be visiting the collegiate church of St. Servatius, a former abbey during the 10th C and a masterpiece of Roman architecture. See its grave of the first German King Henry I and the recently returned church treasure. The monumental edifice manifests not only in its facade but also in the ornamentation of the interior with an Italian influence. The progression of columns and pillars divide the nave from its aisles and a stairway leads you up to the choir and to its treasures which are on display again since 1993. - Take a leisurely stroll now across the historical market square or why not relax at one of the outside cafes before we return to our hotel in Schweinfurt for dinner. (B & D)





DAY 08: Excursion to HEIDELBERG.

This morning we leave for Heidelberg, an ancient university town celebrated in songs and poetry and described as the “German Heart of Romanticism”, a former residence of the Electorate of the Palatinate and one of Germany’s most popular tourist destinations with more than 3.5 million visitors every year. - An orientation drive will take you to the city’s Church of the Holy Spirit, an example of late Gothic style from the 17th C and right opposite the Knight St. George Mansion, built 1592 with a Renaissance facade of special interest. - You will see its old "Marktplatz" and City Hall before we proceed to Heidelberg’s castle, or better what is left of it. - The ruins of this castle are a mix of styles from Gothic to Renaissance and was built during the late 14th C. - At its terrace you will be rewarded by a wonderful view of Heidelberg, its Old Bridge and river Neckar. –

Following this break, be invited here to visit the Old Castle Museum to admire a Great Wine Vat, holding a capacity of up to 50.000 gallons. – Later, and back to the old quarter of Heidelberg, time is yours to browse around or why not enjoy here a glass of its famous local wine. - During the afternoon back to Schweinfurt in time for freshen up again and for another fine dinner at the hotel. (B & D)





DAY 09: Excursion to ROTHENBURG on the Romantic Road.

Your drive this morning leads you further south again, travelling on the Romantic Road to Rothenburg. - Hardly any other town casts such a spell on visitors as this architectural gem. - A short walking tour reveals half timbered houses, medieval turrets, gates and towers, almost untouched in its original architecture since the Thirty Years War. - Enjoy its beautiful painted Old Town Hall of both Gothic and Renaissance style and admire the outstanding “Baumeister-Haus”, an ancient restaurant building of the late 16th C. – On the north side of this square you won’t miss the former “Ratstrinkstube”, an old tavern whose clock jacks enact several times a day the famous bumper of a wine legend representing a “master draught” which took place here in 1631. - Then, you will be visiting St. James Church to see its famous High Altar known as the “Last Supper of the Holy Blood”, a 16th C masterpiece of woodcarver T. Riemenschneider. – Time will be left to walk the charming alleys of Rothenburg on your own before our route leads back to our hotel for another delicious dinner and for overnight. (B & D)





DAY 10: WUERZBURG.

A leisurely morning drive will take you today to Wuerzburg in a beautiful setting of vineyards at the foot of the Episcopal Citadel of Marienberg, overlooking the town and surrounding hills. - The foundation of Wuerzburg goes back to the Bronze Age of the 4th and 5th C. Later, the city became known by the prince-bishops of the 16th and 17th C who commissioned a great number of the monuments of today. In contrast to and under the reign of Bishop Philip, large trials were held in the city during the 17th C to burn hundreds of "witches" that time. - In the early 19th C, Wuerzburg finally became part of the Kingdom of Bavaria. - During the bombing of Wuerzburg in WW II, almost 90% of the city was destroyed within minutes. The battle continued until the final German resistance was defeated on April 5 in 1945. - After the war, Wuerzburg was host to the US Army and various other US military units have maintained a presence up to 2008. - You will be visiting the "Residenz", a vast compound of a palace of the 18th C that has suffered severe damage during the last war but has been completely rebuilt. One of the attractions is the famous Baroque staircase with the largest fresco in the world which adorns the vault over the staircase. The Emperor's Hall as a centerpiece of the palace testifies the close relationship between the city of Wuerzburg and the Holy Roman Empire. - You also will enjoy the interior of the church Hofkirche, richly decorated with paintings, altars, sculptures and stucco ornaments. - Following this impressive visit your tour leads back to the city center and to its Cathedral, one of the largest Romanesque basilicas of the 11th C in Germany, a masterpiece of architecture and seat of the Bishop of Wuerzburg. The inside displays numerous works of art such a font of the 13th C, an impressive series of tombs and epitaphs of bishops including the monumental effigies by T. Riemenschneider. - The rest of the afternoon is yours in Wuerzburg and then return to your hotel in Schweinfurt for dinner and overnight. (B & D)



DAY 11: Day at leisure – toward evening private Church Service including an Organ Concert and Folklore Dinner Show.

An almost full day at leisure awaits you today in Schweinfurt to do as you please. – During the later afternoon be invited for a private church service including organ music of Bach. - Toward evening join again for a special farewell dinner with beer or wine and enjoy local music and folklore entertainment. - Another highlight this evening will be a drawing of valuable gifts where everyone is winning. (B & D)



DAY 12: Last day of tour – your departure.

Following a last and hearty breakfast at your hotel, your transfer is waiting to take you back to Frankfurt Airport for your return flight. – Your motor coach driver bids “Auf Wiedersehen” to you and your Tour Director will assist you with your check-in at the airport. – Then, it’s time to bid farewell to the old world of Germany - while your flight takes off.....! (B)

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WHAT YOUR LAND TOUR COST ALL INCLUDES

- * 2 accommodations at a first-class hotel in Frankfurt
9 accommodations at a first-class hotel in Schweinfurt.
All rooms with private facilities, bath or shower, hair dryer, telephone, TV.....
- * 11 full buffet-style breakfasts.
- * 1 lunch on day 04.
- * 11 four-courses dinners with choice of main course, including one dinner with wine or beer, local music and folklore entertainment.
- * Total 23 meals.
- * Bag service in/ out at both hotels.
- * 2 welcome receptions.
- * Touring by a private and late-model motor coach with all facilities, such as washroom/ toilet, air-conditioned, reclining seats, panoramic windows, kitchen/ bar and more for the convenience of passengers.
- * Transfers between Frankfurt hotel and hotel in Schweinfurt, all excursions, side trips, sightseeing and entrance fees where applicable as per itinerary.



* Features:

Orientation tour of **Frankfurt**.

Rhine river cruise from **Ruedesheim** to St. Goarshausen and to **Koblenz** including cable car ride up to Fortress Ehrenbreitstein.

City sightseeing of **Schweinfurt**.

Excursion to the health resort of **Bad Kissingen** including a river cruise on the Saale.

Excursion to **Eisenach** and sightseeing including entrance to its Castle Wartburg.

Excursion to **Weimar** including sightseeing with a side trip to **Buchenwald**.

Excursion to **Cheb** in the **Czech Republic** and side trip to a pilgrimage place including a **private church service**.

Excursion to **Quedlinburg** including sightseeing.

Orientation drive of **Heidelberg** including sightseeing and entrance to its Castle Museum.

Excursion to **Rothenburg** on the **Romantic Road** with sightseeing including St. James Church and its High Altar.

City tour of **Wuerzburg** including entrance Residence Castle.

Another **private church service** in **Schweinfurt** including an organ concert.

A special **gift to each member** of tour.

- * A most experienced and English speaking Tour Director from day Of arrival Frankfurt to departure airport Frankfurt and a well-trained motor coach driver throughout land.

... your motor coach tour operator for all over europe



LAND TOUR COST PER PERSON SHARING DOUBLE – OR TWIN-BEDDED ROOM

30 – 35 paying persons = 1.640,00 EURO p.p.
36 – 40 paying persons = 1.570,00 EURO p.p.
41 – up paying persons = 1.495,00 EURO p.p.

EURO ...330,00 single supplement.

* All rates net in EURO and not commissionable.

Valid through 2014.

* From 25 paying persons on – plus 1 person free of charge on land.

* Please select your own arrival/ departure date.

